The late medieval village population of Dispenes, Brandenburg

**Preamble**

In recent years the field of anthropology within the universities system has been subject to a continuous process of democratization. As a result, various opportunities for freelance anthropologists have arisen, particularly in cooperation with state offices for archeology, private excavation outfits, and museums. All of whom are seeking the services of a competent partner for archeological data and consulting.

The examination of human remains in Germany, meanwhile, is and will be done mainly by freelance osteoarchaeologists.

The designation "osteologist" is very broad and not protected. To ensure a high quality of analyses and to protect the freelance osteoarchaeologists, a group of experienced anthropologists founded the Workgroup Freelance Anthropologists (AFOA) at the meeting of the Session for Anthropology (AGA). The members of AFOA have agreed upon guidelines and codes in which they agree to adhere to the code of professional conduct to achieve the highest standard of analyses according to current research standards. The codes ensure a high quality for serious archeological work. With their signatures, members agree to abide by the guidelines and the codes.

For more information on AFOA, its members and the codes, please visit the OA website [www.gemo.de](http://www.gemo.de) or contact the group spokespersons:

1. Dr. Bettina Jungklaus and 2. Carola Benzin

### Guidelines & Codes

Object of the osteological work is the examination of human remains from (pre-)historic epochs.

In the case of the Ostearthropatholog is involved during the excavation. Experience has shown that important information can be won with their participation on the spot or on the basis immediately without a technical report.

As the evaluation of age, sex and stature provides the basic information about the individual. Diseases in particular cases or a population permit conclusions on the conditions of life. Therefore a detailed pathological analysis, inclusive of a photo documentation, is part of every examination. Ancestry analysis is increasingly gaining importance. Depending on target and question of the examination, the bone recording or the standard recording is recommended (see table below).

All members of the AFOA have signed a code in which they swear among others commit themselves to professional archeological work according to the guidelines as well as to the general current scientific standards to continue regularly their education and to calculate her fees in an adequate and serious way.

#### Founder members AFOA

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<tr>
<th>Founders</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. rer. nat. Bettina Jungklaus (Berlin)</td>
<td>Carola Benzin M.A. (Berlin)</td>
<td>Dr. rer. nat. Birgit Großkopf (Göttingen)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kristin von Heyking, Dipl.-Bl.</td>
<td>Carola Benzin, Kristin von Heyking, Birgit Großkopf</td>
<td>Susanne Storch, Carola Benzin, Birgit Großkopf</td>
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